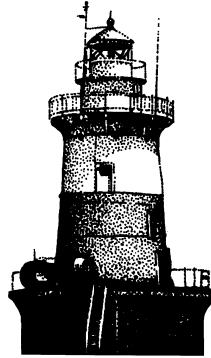


ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS TOWN OF DARIEN

JOHN McDONALD, CHAIRMAN
C. LINCOLN JEWETT, VICE CHAIRMAN
FRANK KEMP, CLERK
WALTER RALEIGH, SHELLFISH
ROBERT MONROE
CHERYL RUSSELL
JON SCHOUDEL
COLIN SEELY
PALMER SPARKMAN
HENRY STRAUSS



EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
JANE BRANIGAN, PARK & REC. COMM.
ROBERT PRICE, HARBOR MASTER
BUD MCGARRY, DEPUTY HARBOR MASTER
CAPT. GARY PAVIA, POLICE DEPT.

GREEN'S LEDGE LIGHT

Minutes of June 3, 2009 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 in Room 119A by Chairman McDonald.

Present were Chairman McDonald, Vice Chairman Jewett, Commissioners Kemp, Monroe, Russell, Seely, Sparkman, Strauss, plus Ex-Officio Member Price (Harbormaster). Commissioners Raleigh and Schoudel were absent.

Commissioner Russell excused herself at the request of the First Selectwoman, so as to attend a Park & Recreation Commission meeting, which was being conducted at the same time as this meeting.

This meeting was recorded on video for future presentation on Channel 79 at a later date.

The minutes of the May 6, 2009 Meeting were reviewed and approved.

Chairman's Report

Chairman McDonald reported on activities on behalf of the Commission since the last meeting:

- Reorganization of the resolution chartering this Commission (as reviewed and approved by a vote at the last meeting): this topic will be discussed by the Selectmen at their June 15 meeting.
- Review of the 90 ft. pier proposed for construction off of Pratt Island: the matter has been the subject of correspondence with the DEP as to the right of the owner to build on rocks that are above the high tide level.
- The duties of Commission Clerks in regard to filing minutes for publication on the Town's web site. Minutes within 7 days, if votes are recorded – within 2 days.
- Connecticut Boating Advisory Council meeting in Old Lyme, May 13: Proposed boating legislation being considered in Hartford was reviewed – particularly the licensing requirement for salt water fishing, ending pressure washing, and the end of transfer of boating license (and other) fees from the state to local municipalities. Under the proposed change, the fees previously channeled to the municipalities would be redirected to the state's general fund.

- The CT Harbor Management Association meeting in New Haven on May 28: topics discussed included transferring Harbor Masters from the Dept of Transportation to the Dept of Environmental Protection, and adding the shellfish commissioners to this association
- The Darien Land Trust's Olson Woods Remediation Program: this program includes the stocking of alewives (herring), and the possible construction of a fish ladder under I-95 on the Noroton River.
- The Long Island Sound Council: volunteers are needed to attend these meetings, which have been attended by Commissioners McDonald and Raleigh up to this point.

Harbor Master's Report

The Harbor Master reported that responses to the annual renewal permits have been completed. Of the 289 renewals that have been sent out, 240 responses have been received to date.

Shellfish Report

In the absence of Commissioner Raleigh, Chairman McDonald noted that the state law may change so that municipalities may do their own water sampling for shellfishing. In regard to the identification of septic fields in town, it appears as if properties upstream from Pear Tree Point, although near the sewer line, may not be able to be required to hook up. More information on this topic will be forthcoming from the Dept of Health.

There has been an arrest of a shellfisher to the west of Pratt Island, on charges of being out of the area in which he had permission to work. The area is being re-surveyed, so as to resolve the issue,

Review of Commission Issues

Note – not all Issues are mentioned below. Of the 13 “Darien Coastal Waters Issues” (defined in the December 2008 meeting), only the issues with significant activity to report withing the past month are mentioned below.

Revision of Town Ordinances – the ordinances are under review by committees of the RTM (with no problems anticipated) and will proceed to be voted on by the full RTM

Development of an overall plan for managing Darien harbor – Commissioner Jewett presented a map which will be useful in defining the seven individual harbors, and a table of contents with which to organize the effort. He will now review the plans that other towns have prepared, so as to confirm that all the useful topics have been identified.

Moorings. “Temporary moorings” or “lunch hooks” were discussed. Darien has no rules on them. Regulations on these from Greenwich and other towns will be explored by the Harbor Master.

Town Emergency Plan – Commissioner Sparkman will contact the Town Emergency Planner – Marc McEwan to determine if the Town's plan is approved and what input the Commission might have on this process.

Improve Communication and Support from Board of Selectmen – Commissioners McDonald, Jewett and Raleigh have conducted an extensive meeting with the First Selectwoman to address this issue, and report success in this regard.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Wednesday October 7, 2009 in room 213, Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank B. Kemp
Clerk